

PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303), hereinafter referred to as “Section 4(f),” and its implementing regulations codified at 23 CFR Part 774, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) provides public notice of its proposal to make a de minimis impact finding under Section 4(f) regarding the effects of the proposed Piney Meetinghouse Road bridge replacement on a portion of Watts Branch Stream Valley Park, and to provide the opportunity for public review and comment of this proposed determination.

As a result of existing deficiencies and deteriorating conditions, MCDOT-DTE is proposing to replace Piney Meetinghouse Bridge (Bridge No. M-0021) to improve safety and to extend the service life of the bridge. The proposed structure will consist of two 11-foot travel lanes, two five-foot shoulders, and bridge railings. As the structure will be accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists, a three-foot, six-inch high bridge railing is included in the design of the superstructure. The out-to-out width of the new bridge will be approximately 36 feet. The out-to-out width of the existing bridge is approximately 27 feet, two inches.

The proposed de minimis impact finding is based on coordination with the officials with jurisdiction. The officials with jurisdiction are Federal or designated State agencies that own and/or administer the affected portion of the property protected by Section 4(f). The officials have been notified of FHWA’s intent to make de minimis impact findings. Should the officials with jurisdiction concur, FHWA will issue a finding of de minimis impact.

Pursuant to 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2), notice is hereby provided of the proposed de minimis finding determinations. Comments regarding the proposed Section 4(f) de minimis impact findings may be submitted to FHWA and MCDOT in writing or through the MCDOT website during the 15-day comment period; the comment deadline is posted on the county website (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/>). Written comments may be provided to:

Montgomery County Department of Transportation
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
ATTN: Piney Meetinghouse Road